

Draft Minutes
Litter Task Force Meeting

Attending:

Tom Getz (RIDEM)
Kathy Denard (Governor's Office)
Maria Broadbent (City of Newport)
Anita San Antonio (Grocery Retailers)
Greg Gerritt (ECRI)
Jennifer West (Audubon)
Liberty Goodwin (TIP)
Caroline Karp (Sierra Club)

Summary of Key Issues

1. Future and Governance of the Litter Committee

- Tom Getz is willing to continue running the meetings temporarily as long as people help with setting the agenda, writing minutes
- Coordinate with RIRRC (J.Trevor)
 - Check on status of CleanRI phone #
- Reduce cost and improve efficiency of litter cleanup by having DOT crews pick up ALL bags at once at the end of the day instead of waiting with the ACI crews.
- (Re-) establish restricted receipt account to fund anti-litter campaigns is not likely. However consider asking Governor to promote restricted receipt account subject to legislative oversight
- Priorities for addressing litter problem in RI are:
 - Prevention
 - Enforcement
 - Cleanup

2. Case study: Prevention of cigarette disposal related to smoking ban in Newport (Maria)

(Jen) cigarette butts are the most abundant item in coastal cleanups 1990-2001 and #1 in 2004 cleanup.

- PREVENT/REDUCE USE: Create demand for uniform, designer ashtrays; develop anti-smoking campaign
- ENFORCE: Develop anti-litter campaign, e.g., photo of universal “bad guy” tossing cigarette butts, litter
- CLEAN-UP: Allow service organizations, e.g., Boy Scouts, to:
 - collect cigarette butts (litter) and use to educate (public) about litter and/or
 - collect bounty for helping to catch “litterers” by using photographs and/or
 - authorize, encourage local newspapers to publish names of “litterers”

*Jen will draft letter supporting HRxx (Rep Levins, Westerrly) on behalf of the RI Litter Committee

3. Problem: Plastic bags

- PREVENT/REDUCE USE:
 - encourage use of canvas bags (Greg, Anita)
 - charge for bags (Maria, Caroline)
 - educate public about environmental externalities associated with manufacture, disposal of plastic bags (Liberty)
 - “Tie them up” campaign (RIRRC Plastic Bag Subcommittee)

- CLEAN-UP:
 - make bag drop-off locations easy to find in supermarkets (Anita)
 - TREK: develop product line from used bags comparable to 'recovery'/reuse of plastic bottles for durables
 - require retailers to accept packaging for disposal or pay costs associated with disposal, i.e., *producer responsibility* (Caroline)

NEXT MEETING: **May 26, 2005**
 3-4 PM

- C. Karp will present info on alternate *Environmentally Preferable Purchasing* models (source reduction) via experience at Brown (Ken Carlson, Brown University)
- Kathy will invite D.Beardsley, League Cities and Towns and someone from RI Purchasing Office
- Tom will invite T.Maguire, DEM Purchasing Office and Dept. Of Administration Purchasing representative